(c) The details of the quantity of foodgrains lifted for export to different countries and rates offered by FCI to the exporters are as under:—

Export of Wheat

(Figures in lakh MT, Rate Rs. per MT)

Year	Lifted	Rate	From	Upto
2000-01	16,93,390	4150/-	20.10.2000	31.03.2001
		4300/-	01.04.2001	16.08.2001
2001-02	39,90,036	4200/-	17.08.2001	30.11.2001
		4250/-	01.12.2001	10.05.2002

Export of Rice

(Figures in lakh MT, Rate Rs. per MT)

Year	Lifted	Rate	From	to
2000-01	Nil	6750/-	27.02.01	31.03.01
2001-02	19,85,513	5650/- (Raw)	26.05.01	10.05.02
		6000/- Par boiled	26.05.01	10.05.02

Offtake of foodgrains

3847. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to strengthen the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding offtake of foodgrains from the Food Corporation of India from 1998-99 onwards; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to enhance the offtake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government has undertaken a series of measures to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country.

(i) Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government has advised the State Governments to more substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in the supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

(ii) A model Citizens Charter was circulated to all States/UTs in 1997 for adoption with the request to bring out their own charter in accordance with the model charter. It contains, *inter-alia*, basic information of interest to the consumers and a model procedure and time schedule for the services *viz.*, entitlement of BPL families, fair average quality of foodgrains, information regarding FPS, procedure of issue of ration card, inspection and checking, right to information, vigilance and public participation.

(iii) the allocation of foodgrains for the BPL, category which was doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. w.e.f. 1.4.2000 and increased to 25 kg. per family per month from July, 2001, has been further increased to 35 kg. per family per month w.e.f. 1.4.2002.

(iv) Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been implemented throughout the country. The scheme envisages supply of 35 kg. of foodgrains per family per month to the poorest of the poor segments of the society at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg. for rice.

(v) In order to maintain supplies, secure availability and distribution of subsidized commodities to the targeted beneficiaries under the PDS, the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been issued on 31.8.2001.

(vi) Government of India is reimbursing road transport cost on actual basis for lifting of foodgrains, to be distributed through PDS network, from the base depots of FCI to the designated Principal

Distribution Centers (PDCs) under the Hill Transport Subsidy (HTS) scheme, which is applicable to predominantly hilly States (including North-Eastern States and Island Territories).

(c) The details regarding offtake of foodgrains under TPDS from the central pool from 1998-1999 onwards is as under:

(in '000 tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
1998-1999	10743.19	7949.06	18692.25
1999-2000	11313.74	5762.09	17075.82
2000-2001	7741.41	3970.77	11712.18
2001-2002	7850.925	4966.364	12817.29

(d) In order to enhance the offtake of foodgrains from the central pool, Government has initiated following measures over and above as mentioned in part (a) of the reply.

(i) The Government has decided to reduce the prices of both rice and wheat for APL families by Rs.1 per kg. *w.e.f.* 1.4.2002 for a period of 3 months. The central issue prices of wheat stand reduced to Rs.510 per quintal and CIP of rice will be 730 per quintal for APL families. The CIP of rice for APL families for the States *viz.* Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and North-East States has been fixed at Rs.695 per quintal.

(ii) The scale of issue of foodgrains for the APL category has been fixed at 35 kg.

(iii) Government of India has fixed the scale of issue of foodgrains for Welfare Institutions and hostels uniformly 15 kg. per head per month and an additional allocation equal to 5% of the BPL allocation is being made to all States/UTs on this account.

(iv) Foodgrains at the rates applicable for BPL families shall be allocated for all welfare schemes implemented by various Ministries of the Government of India.

(v) Foodgrains at the rates applicable for BPL families are allotted

to the State Governments for undertaking "Food for Work" programmes and also "Greening India Campaign".

(vi) Foodgrains are allocated at BPL rates for development schemes, implemented by NGOs, sponsored by the State Governments and administrative Ministry in the Government of India and also by International Organisations like World Food Programme.

(vii) Open market sales of 50 lakh MTs of wheat and 10 lakh MTs of rice has been permitted at prices to be determined by the existing high level committee of FCI.

(viii) Wheat and rice are being provided free of cost under Samporna Gramin Rojgar Yojana sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development.

PDS in Kerala

3848. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted any fresh proposals to strengthen the existing Public Distribution System in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding the PDS offtake in Since Kerala 1999-2000 onwards; and

(d) whether Government plan any specific PDS programmes for those States facing shortage of foodgrains production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Kerala had requested for financial assistance of Rs. 179.75 lakhs during 2001-02 for construction of four godowns with a total capacity of 8000 MTs. and Rs. 374 lakh for construction of 10 godowns with a total capacity of 14,700 MTs during 2001-2002. The proposal for construction of four godowns at an estimated cost of